

WASHINGTON SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

PROCEDURE: 3403P

Adopted: March 6, 2009

SUBJECT: **Self Harm/Suicide Threats/Suicide Attempts by Students**

Approved by:


Rick Hauan, Superintendent

If a student makes a statement that s/he wants to harm or kill him or herself or takes any action to harm or kill him or herself, Washington School for the Deaf (WSD) staff will follow the procedure outlined below.

Notification & Initial Interview

1. Residential staff immediately notifies the dean, who in turn notifies the Director of Student Life. Academic staff immediately notifies the psychologist or counselor, who in turn notifies the principal.
2. The student is put under direct 1:1 supervision.
3. The dean/psychologist or counselor calls the Clark County Crisis Services (CCCS) and arranges to have the student evaluated by a mental health professional. After the initial interview, the mental health professional determines if an on-site visit is needed.
 - a. No visit required: mental health professional provides follow-up instructions to dean/psychologist or counselor.
 - b. On-site visit required: see "Assessment—On Campus" below.
4. The dean/psychologist or counselor contacts the parents of students and informs them of the situation and the next steps in terms of assessment. If a student is referred for inpatient treatment, the parents must be notified within 48 hours.

Assessment—On Campus

1. If the mental health professional comes to WSD to evaluate the student, the dean/psychologist or counselor:
 - a. Calls to arrange for an interpreter.
 - b. Prepares Medicaid and/or insurance information for the mental health professional.
 - c. Has parental contact information ready for the mental health professional.
2. If the mental health professional arrives and the student is out of control or refuses to talk to the mental health professional, the dean/psychologist or

counselor calls 911 and the student is transported by emergency services to the hospital designated by the mental health professional. The dean/psychologist or counselor should advise parents that they must make arrangements for their child to return home upon release from an evaluation or treatment facility .

3. For students able to cooperate, the mental health professional assesses the student's mental health situation.
 - a. If the student is stable and presents no risk to him/herself, the mental health professional makes the necessary connections for follow-up the next day.
 - b. If the mental health professional determines the student is not stable and the student presents a continuing risk of self-harm, the student is transported by emergency services or state car to the hospital designated by the mental health professional for further evaluation or treatment. In this case, the parents are required to pick the student up at the hospital.
 - c. In the event the hospital releases the student and parents have not arrived to pick up their child, the student returns to the school or cottage but remains in the principal's office or the cottage family room where staff provides line-of-sight supervision until the parents arrive.
4. When a student is transported for a mental health evaluation or treatment, the student may not return to the school until written consent or releases of information are provided to allow the dean/psychologist or counselor to discuss the student's need for treatment, supervision, or other special considerations with the mental health professional. [Note: In most cases, a minor 13 years and older may self-admit for inpatient mental health evaluation and treatment, or may request and receive mental health treatment on an outpatient basis without parental consent. Therefore, a student 13 years and older must sign the consent to release or disclosure of mental health treatment information to school personnel. This requirement does not preclude the school's ability to communicate with parents.
5. The dean will ensure the school is informed of the situation; the psychologist or counselor will ensure the residential program is informed of the situation.
6. The dean/psychologist or counselor fills out the Pupil Information Form (PIF).

Follow-up

Depending on the situation and the mental health professional's diagnosis, the student may not be allowed to return to campus until a mental health professional from his/her hometown has evaluated the student and has determined the student:

- Is safe to return to school and/or the residential program without the need for extra supervision or other conditions that would substantially change the nature of the services provided in the school or residential program; and,
- No longer presents a continuing risk of self-harm.

Any student who threatens or attempts self-harm or suicide will be placed on the Extra Supervision Pupil (ESP) list for a minimum of 90 calendar days. Summer vacation days do not count toward the 90 days.

